

THE BATTALION

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The Weather

Today

Tomorrow

High 87
Low 69
Chance of rain 20%

High 89
Low 65
Chance of rain 20%

Reagan pushes budget

WASHINGTON — With his budget assured of approval by half the Congress, a raspy-voiced President Reagan dismissed a Democratic substitute as an "echo of the past" and urged Americans to try something new — his plan for economic recovery.

The president's Republican teammates said his latest pep talk would raise the nation. Democrats grumbled that it was misleading and some of his figures inaccurate.

As he mounted the rostrum earlier, the joint session gave him a sustained 20-minute, 45-second ovation punctuated by rhythmic cheers from the Republican side. After his introduction by House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, Reagan received another 45 seconds of tribute.

It was his third appearance before Congress on behalf of the economic program he says he was elected to carry out, and it came on the eve of his 100th day in office, the mythical milestone for

work as a team," he said. "Isn't it time we tried something new? The time for action is now."

But O'Neill, the highest ranking Democrat in Washington, immediately took issue with Reagan's claim the opposition plan would increase taxes by more than a third and cut more than \$14 billion in important military spending.

"The president's assertion the Democratic budget cuts essential defense spending is unfair and misleading," said O'Neill.

"The latest version of the Republican budget begins the abandonment of the government's responsibility in the fields of health and education. That is the major reason I cannot support the latest version of the president's budget and why I will work for the Democratic proposal."

House Democratic leader James Wright of Texas said Reagan had been supplied with "factually inaccurate" information about the Democratic alternative. He disputed Reagan's contention the Democratic proposal would

mean more taxes, more spending and an inadequate defense budget.

"It is unfortunate in the extreme that some of those who provided statistical information for his data did President Reagan a grave disservice by describing the House Budget Committee's resolution in factually inaccurate ways," Wright said.

Wright said Reagan was incorrect in stating the Democrats' proposal would boost spending by \$14 billion above his own budget, reduce the defense budget and increase tax payments by over one-third.

Among Republicans, who have seen Reagan's economic package battered during his convalescence, the reaction to the president's appearance on Capitol Hill was warm, and in some instances effusive.

"President Reagan was forthright, courageous and to the point," said Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind.

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Air conditioning proposal awaiting regent approval

By BERNIE FETTE

Battalion Staff

There is little chance a request for air conditioning of the second-floor annex of G. Rollie White Coliseum will be met before the end of the summer.

Dr. Leonard Ponder, health and physical education department head, made the request after it was determined some two months ago that air conditioning would alleviate ventilation problems in the area.

The project is presently in only the proposal stage, however, pending approval by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, Dr. Charles McCandless, master planning committee chairman, said.

"I would think a decision should be reached in a couple of months," he said.

Ponder said ventilation problems resulting from the expansion of the coliseum and Kyle Field created the need for air conditioning in the area which includes

the Nautilus weight training center, men's locker room, and several classrooms.

An annex to the original building was completed in 1955 which included the men's locker rooms and the area used for intramural sports. Then in 1975 another expansion for women's dressing rooms and more classrooms complicated the ventilation problem.

Ventilation in that area of the coliseum was for the most part lost after the Kyle Field Expansion.

There is now only a single row of windows on the west side of the building. Ponder said those windows, without any cross-ventilation, are of little use.

To air condition the area would cost more than \$250,000, McCandless said.

However, he said, other alternatives such as a ventilation system along with fans are possible but have not yet been thoroughly investigated.

Ponder said he estimates the temperatures in the unventilated area will exceed 100 degrees in the summer but official readings will be taken in the coming weeks.

Besides the high temperatures, Ponder said, the lack of ventilation has made the odor in that area a problem as well.

Although no health problems have resulted from the situation, Ponder said he is aware of such possibilities.

"We've had no health problems yet, but we're trying to head them off before they happen," he said.

Since it will likely be two months before the Board of Regents decides on the project, there is little possibility that the air conditioning will be installed before the end of the summer. Such a situation is likely to produce problems, Ponder said.

"We can't afford to take chances with people in that area of the building," he said. "If it gets unbearable, we'll just have to close that section down."

Student claims property not stolen

By TERRY DURAN

Battalion Staff

One of the students charged Monday night with theft of property including a phone booth says that some of the items were purchased, not stolen.

Three Texas A&M University students were charged with the thefts after police found what they believed was stolen property in their apartment.

The police had arrived in response to a burglary call from the Briarwood apartment complex. What they found was a fraternity brother of the apartment's three occupants who had climbed in the window as a joke. The apartment dwellers were all on campus at the time.

Upon entering the apartment, police found a complete telephone booth, an oilfield drilling bit, two

vending machines and several signs.

Police suspected that the objects had been stolen, and, after officers talked with the trio — David L. Claridge, David B. Collins and James J. Walker II — a police van hauled off the suspect items.

The three students were charged with a Class C misdemeanor — theft under \$5, punishable by a maximum fine of \$200 — and arranged for payment of their \$200 bail shortly after midnight Monday.

Collins told the Battalion Tuesday night that only four of the signs were stolen.

The phone booth, he said, was bought a year ago from a friend in San Angelo, and had been retired by the telephone company before being purchased.

The vending machines were broken, Collins said, and had been put in the apartment before they were

thrown away.

The drill bit, he said, was the product of summer's work at the Loftis Co. of Midland. Collins said police thought the bit was of the diamond-tipped variety, which are durable and expensive. However, he said the bit was actually a worn out carbon steel bit.

Most of the signs, he said, "just appeared" during fraternity parties at the apartment. All three students are members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Collins said the apartment was a "high-traffic area" for fraternity activities.

Collins said a receipt for the phone booth has been requested from its former owner.

No charges beyond the misdemeanor charge have been filed.

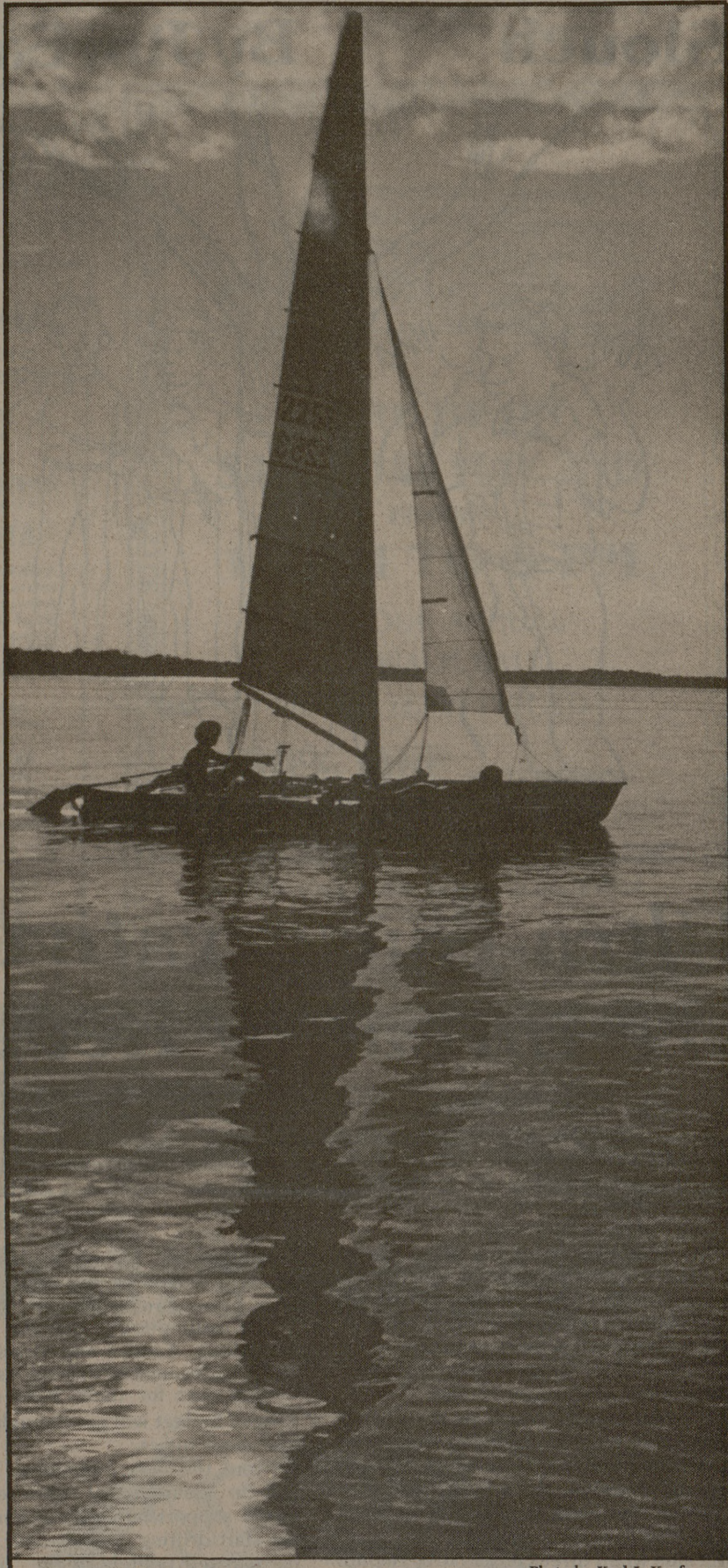


Photo by Karl J. Kaufmann

Lazy afternoon on the lake

Beautiful weather and sunny skies draw sailing enthusiasts to Lake Somerville to soak up some sun and enjoy a relaxing day in their sailboats.

Legislators get the message: A&M needs more money

Editor's note: Following is an update on the Texas A&M budget in the Legislature, including the first specific proposals available. For details on the other schools in the Texas A&M System, see page 6. More budget breakdowns, for the service agencies and System, will appear in Thursday's Battalion.

By LIZ NEWLIN

Battalion Staff

Texas A&M is growing, and it needs more money.

The two-year budget recommendation from the Texas House Appropriations Committee — with 29 and 37 percent increases System-wide — reflects that message.

Maybe that message surfaced during long, dulling hours of testimony, or maybe the Aggie chairman and his friends guided the committee to the "proper" decisions. The message, however, is most strongly backed by rising enrollment and expanding programs.

Rep. Bill Presnal, D-Bryan and chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, says the \$55 million increase at Texas A&M for the next two years is mainly caused by enrollment growth.

Under his plan, still to be tested on the House floor, the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station would receive \$6 million more than its current budget to enlarge research programs. The Texas Engineering Experiment Station would receive an additional \$2.5 million during the biennium to be matched with federal

and private funds for more research.

Presnal says this is the first time both research agencies received their full requests.

"This is an indication of the committee's recognition of the need for research to solve the problems facing all of us in the areas of food, energy and preservation of our resources," he said.

Salary money for faculty and other professionals in the System will also increase — 15 percent the first year and 10 percent the next year. Increases for staff are 14.3 percent and 8.7 percent. Part of the first-year increase, however,

See page 6 for details on budget proposals for the other schools in the Texas A&M System and the Texas Forest Service.

has already been claimed through a 5.1 percent raise in February paychecks for state workers.

A Texas A&M official said the Board of Regents will decide how to distribute the extra money for faculty; in the past, he said, regents have preferred merit raises.

Based on current funding, Texas A&M University would receive about 22 percent more money next year and 37 percent more the next year.

For the System as a whole, the increases over this year's budget would be about 29 percent and 37 percent.

The proposals from the approp-

riations committee must still be debated on the House floor, and legislators can change the amounts. A parallel process is going on in the Texas Senate, but the Finance Committee has not released its proposals.

Legislators are also working against a time limit. The session ends June 1, and floor action on appropriations is expected within the week.

Once each house adopts its separate appropriations bill — which contains about \$26.5 billion for the next two years for state government — the two houses must decide on one bill to send to the governor.

Gov. Bill Clements vetoed a few projects for the Texas A&M System in the 1979 Legislature's final bill. Some appear again in the House bill.

The Center for Comparative Medicine at Texas A&M, for instance, is slated to receive \$300,000 each year of the biennium. The center studies the similarities between human and animal medicine. Last time, the governor vetoed a \$500,000 appropriation.

Items that will probably not be vetoed are scholarships at each academic institution. In the appropriations bill, the legislators say that part of those appropriations must be used for scholarships for minority students or, in the case of Prairie View A&M, for non-black students.

The state of Texas is obligated to fund these scholarships and meet other requirements for the federal government.

Texas A&M budget proposal tops \$241 million

All major budget categories are listed. Of the amount for scholarships, at least \$4,747 will be spent each year for minority scholarships.

Category	Current 1981	Requested		Proposed	
		1982	1983	1982	1983
General administration and student services:					
President (plus house, utilities, and supplement)	43,900	52,724	59,367	48,400	50,900
All other general administration	4,429,621	6,916,566	7,788,053	5,092,442	5,433,853
General institutional expense	1,196,031	1,853,470	2,087,007	1,411,850	1,491,842
Staff benefits	2,319,612	4,307,724	5,059,631	3,919,944	4,542,131
Resident instruction:					
Faculty salaries	42,602,612	54,980,245	61,907,756	51,945,510	57,034,575
Departmental operating expense	13,262,972	18,181,334	20,275,361	15,306,353	16,016,714
Instructional administration	2,428,349	3,155,034	3,541,513	2,947,838	3,233,731
Organized activities	850,000	1,782,078	2,036,431	1,500,000	1,600,000
Medical education program	3,053,415	4,974,744	9,052,073	5,074,827	8,564,026
Vocational teacher training	55,345	72,543	81,297	62,515	67,663
Library	4,092,835	5,290,954	5,959,200	5,372,356	6,050,915
Organized research	757,555	3,549,937	3,684,760	943,864	943,695
Physical plant operation and maintenance:					
Utilities	9,174,502	13,014,245	15,424,879	11,600,029	12,765,260
Campus security	12,426,748	15,094,700	19,113,000	14,300,000	15,730,000
Special items (total):	533,365	800,048	1,019,045	800,048	1,020,976
Cyclotron institute	(2,452,454)	(8,284,593)	(6,975,724)	(3,055,199)	(3,277,396)
Sea grant program	617,400	383,165	617,400	705,142	766,671
Energy resources program	383,165	1,246,393	1,246,393	431,441	469,397
Scholarships	14,700	190,796	190,796	1,386,665	1,491,297
Radiological safety program	190,796	190,796	190,796	16,000	16,000
Center for comparative medicine	vetoed	vetoed	vetoed	215,948	234,031
Specific amounts not available				300,000	300,000
Grand total	99,679,316	142,428,114	164,197,612	123,381,175	137,823,657
Less estimated other educational and general funds	7,435,343	8,697,897	8,854,714	9,645,532	9,834,148
Net state appropriation	93,200,704	133,730,217	155,342,898	113,735,643	127,989,509

This chart shows budget recommendations of the Texas House Appropriations Committee for Texas A&M University. The "1981" column shows the current budget for comparison.

The "Request" columns indicate how much Texas A&M requested from the Legislature. The proposals must still be debated on the House floor, possibly this week.